The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of the District of Columbia (CJCC) was organized to serve as the forum for identifying issues and their solutions, proposing actions, and facilitating cooperation that will improve public safety and the related criminal and juvenile justice services for District of Columbia residents, visitors, victims, and offenders. Recognizing that the information systems currently maintained by the justice agencies within the District are difficult to access, the CJCC envisioned a system that would promote the sharing of justice data while maintaining the primacy of each justice agency.

The solution is a District of Columbia Justice Information System (JUSTIS). JUSTIS is the vehicle for inter-agency collaboration and the JUSTIS Inquiry Application provides the platform for the sharing of justice information by allowing users to query various agency criminal justice information systems. JUSTIS provides member agencies[1] the ability to retrieve and review justice data in an efficient manner, thereby relieving agencies of the time and labor-intensive manual processes previously used to access justice data from other agencies.

JUSTIS is a secure Web application that enables criminal justice practitioners the ability to perform their jobs more effectively by providing resources to share news, legislative, and criminal justice information across several agencies. The seamless integration of criminal justice information contained within the Inquiry Application allows criminal justice practitioners the opportunity to make timely and effectual policy decisions. As the number of participating agencies increase, the quality and volume of information shared among criminal justice agencies increases, aiding the decision making process.

JUSTIS is hosted on the District of Columbia's Wide Area Network (DC WAN). To access JUSTIS, an agency must adhere to the following requirements:

- Obtain agency access to the DC WAN (either through a direct connection to the Frame Relay or an Internet VPN)

- Users must utilize a 128 bit encrypted web browser (i.e. Internet Explorer 4.x or Netscape 4.x)

- Potential agency JUSTIS users must be a justice agency as defined under District of Columbia codes, or have been issued an ORI by NCIC

The following conceptual diagram depicts how a criminal justice agency will connect to the DC WAN to access JUSTIS via an Internet VPN.

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[1] The following agencies are currently members of the CJCC: Metropolitan Police Department, PreTrial Services Agency, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, District of Columbia Superior Court, United States Parole Commission, Department of Human Services Youth Services Administration, DC Department of Corrections, United States Attorney's Office, Office of the Corporation Counsel, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and the United State Probation Office.
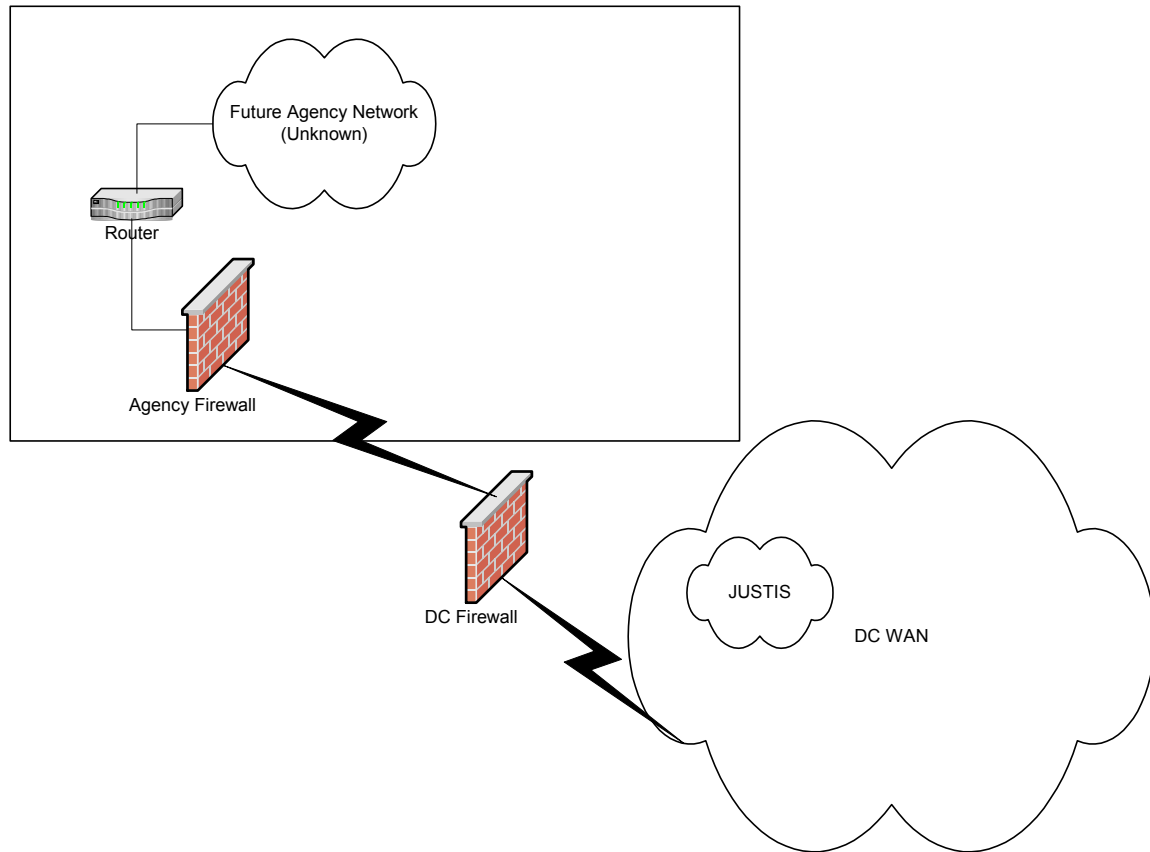
Figure 1 – Conceptual JUSTIS Agency Expansion

As shown in the above network diagram JUSTIS is hosted within the DC WAN. Depending on the network infrastructure of the requesting agency, a connection to the DC WAN may be established using a Frame Relay or an Internet Virtual Private Network (VPN).

▪ **Internet VPN**

The establishment of an Internet Virtual Private Network provides agencies with a robust method to send information over the Internet utilizing standard TCP/IP protocols. Data is transmitted over the Internet through tunnels that are created when a user initiates a private networking session. Tunnels are completely transparent to the end user and may be established for clients connecting to a LAN or for WAN-to-WAN connections. The data is secured over the private network through various tunneling and encryption protocols.

The Next Steps For Your Agency

If you would like to learn more about becoming a participating JUSTIS agency, please contact the CJCC Information Technology Security Officer (ITSO) at (202) 727-7932. The CJCC ITSO will provide the agency a document, *JUSTIS Agency Expansion Through VPN*, and will facilitate the discussion with the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to provide a connection to the DC WAN.